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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 57/296 and updates the information contained in the progress report of the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session (A/57/172).

The report addresses specific follow-up actions and initiatives taken in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1998 report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871), identifies the problems and obstacles in the effective implementation of the recommendations and makes proposals on the future format of the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report.

It is noted in the report that while progress has been made in some areas of the recommendations, that progress has been slow and uneven. Therefore, concerted action by African countries and their development partners is needed to speed up the implementation of the recommendations.

* A/58/150.

** The late submission of the present report is due to a delay in obtaining necessary comments and input from United Nations entities.

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I. Introduction

1. The progress on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/52/871) has been monitored and reported to the General Assembly since 2000. Following the consideration of the previous progress report (A/57/172), the General Assembly, by its resolution 57/296 of 20 December 2002, decided to include a sub-item entitled "Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa" under a single agenda item on the development of Africa, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in the implementation and international support", beginning at its fifty-eighth session. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the sub-item to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The present report is prepared in compliance with that resolution.

2. The report updates the information contained in the aforementioned progress report. It highlights specific follow-up actions undertaken and/or initiated in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, including the problems and constraints in the effective implementation of the various recommendations, and makes proposals for the future format of the follow-up of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report.

3. The various inputs provided by the organizations of the United Nations system formed an important basis for preparing the present report. However, where feasible, the report also draws on the information from secondary sources regarding the actions of African Governments, regional organizations and the donor community in support of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report.

II. Progress made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General

4. Since the submission of the previous report, further progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report, though it has been slow and uneven. Details of the actions and initiatives taken and those planned in the implementation of the recommendations are given in an updated matrix, prepared in compliance with paragraph 10 of resolution 56/37. The highlights reported below in the selected areas of the recommendations, where concrete actions have been taken, are indicative of that progress.

A. Responding to situations of conflict

1. Peacemaking

Appointing special mediators or special commissions to look into the sources of dispute and recommend practical solutions

5. The Secretary-General has continued to appoint special envoys and representatives in the countries concerned in an effort to prevent, mediate, contain and resolve conflicts. Through the United Nations peace-building missions, the Secretary-General's special envoys and representatives have encouraged and facilitated national dialogue and unity, respect for the democratic process and human rights. In June and December 2002, the peace-building mission in the Central African Republic organized meetings of political parties and parliamentarians aimed at encouraging national dialogue for promoting reconciliation and building confidence among the warring parties; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Angola facilitated the completion in 2002 of the peace process in Angola. The recent appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia is yet another example of the Organization's efforts to mediate, contain and resolve conflicts in the region.

6. The African Union has also appointed special envoys to follow on peace talks and to recommend practical steps for conflict resolution in the countries concerned. Alarmed by the number of conflicts ravaging their continent, African leaders met in February 2003 at the first extraordinary summit of heads of State of the African Union to reinvigorate their efforts to end conflicts in the region. The current plans for creating the Peace and Security Council in the African Union, modelled on the United Nations Security Council, reaffirm the resolve of African countries in the search for durable solutions to the various conflicts on the continent. Once created and operational, the Council, under the authority of the African Union, will have the power to mediate conflicts and could institute sanctions against its member States in cases of unconstitutional change of Government and gross violation of human rights, such as genocide.

7. In addition to political will and resolve, the existence of adequate African capacity for conflict resolution is critical for achieving a durable solution to the myriad conflicts besieging the continent. It is important that the international community support and nurture African initiatives for peace and security. In this regard, the dynamic partnership emerging between the African Union and the European Union in promoting peace and stability in Africa is encouraging. The possibility of the European Union-supported fund for peacekeeping operations, conducted under the authority of the African Union, could enhance the latter's capacity effectively to play its role in the peace, security and stability of Africa. The United Nations will continue to support African efforts towards peace, security and stability in the region.

Stopping the proliferation of arms, reducing expenditure on arms and attaining a zero-growth budget for military expenditure

8. In an effort to encourage African States to contribute information to the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat convened in 2002 two

workshops for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community States (SADC). As a result, 17 African countries participated in the 2002 Register. The Department is planning similar workshops in the latter part of 2003 for the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

9. Following its workshop entitled "Proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities: threat to peace and security in West Africa", held in March 2003, the Security Council adopted its resolution 1467 (2003), which contains a declaration on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and mercenary activities in West Africa. By that declaration, the Council recommended that the West African States consider broadening the small arms moratorium of ECOWAS to include information exchange mechanisms for all types of arms procured by the States members of ECOWAS as well as for arms transfers by supplier countries. It also recommended the creation of an ECOWAS national register that would record national holdings of those weapons.

10. In June 2003, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, launched a capacity-building programme for the armed and security forces on the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa. The objective of the programme is to provide officers with modern techniques, skills and tools which would enable them to address the issues of proliferation of small arms and light weapons more efficiently. The programme was launched following the Department seminar in May 2003 at which the States members of ECCAS adopted the Programme of Priority Activities for the Implementation in their subregion of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

11. Overall, progress in this area to date has been slow. The issue of stopping the proliferation of arms depends very much on Member States and their willingness and capacity to implement sovereign and international legally based responsibilities. For its part, the United Nations will continue to play its advocacy role in stopping the flow of illicit weapons.

12. **African countries are further encouraged to be more transparent in providing information on arms and ammunition and to participate in the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. It is also proposed that the international community recognize the efforts of the African countries that are stopping or controlling the proliferation of illegal weapons and provide them with additional support.**

2. Peacekeeping

13. The United Nations currently operates five peacekeeping missions in Africa, namely the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. UNAMSIL is the largest mission, followed by MONUC. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat is conducting assessments

of peacekeeping missions in Africa with a view to extracting lessons learned for future operations.

14. The United Nations remains committed to providing support for the implementation of ceasefire agreements and facilitating an environment conducive to the promotion of national reconciliation. Following the signing of a ceasefire agreement in December 2002 between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the rebel forces, in January 2003 the Secretary-General, in response to a request from the facilitator of the peace agreement, dispatched a four-person team to Pretoria to assist the joint South African/African Union technical team to develop a concept of operation for the African mission. The assistance provided by the United Nations to the joint technical team proved helpful in the team's planning process. However, the recent resumption of hostilities and deadly attacks on civilians and the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Burundi are signs that the country is sliding back into war.

Roles for United Nations peacekeeping in Africa

15. In line with the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report that the international community provide support for the implementation of comprehensive settlements, including a wide range of civilian elements, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is working with regional organizations to support their efforts and in the establishment of peacekeeping missions, including military, civilian police and other components. UNAMSIL and UNMEE incorporated a range of civilian elements in their support of comprehensive settlements. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has strongly argued for the need for comprehensive settlements and, in this regard, its Executive Committee specifically called upon the Office and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to enhance collaboration on all aspects of the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum. Institutionally, a Department liaison officer has been seconded to the Office to ensure that more effective response and cooperation in complex humanitarian emergencies can be realized and multidisciplinary assessment teams within crisis situations can be set up.

16. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been advocating for the inclusion of human rights dimensions in all United Nations peacekeeping efforts at the beginning of the process to ensure these issues are mainstreamed and that peacekeepers undergo training in human rights. For example, in Burundi, the Office has been able to secure agreement to train the African peacekeepers to be deployed to the country. The Office participated in the training of peacekeepers in Côte d'Ivoire. Discussions are in progress with ECOWAS to develop a joint training programme for its peacekeepers before deployment to any country. In close collaboration with the World Bank and through the Cities Alliance, UN-Habitat is assisting post-conflict countries, including Mozambique and Ethiopia, with resettlement programmes.

Supporting African initiatives to resolve disputes

17. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is assisting in the capacity-building of the regional and subregional organizations in conflict resolution. In this regard, it is supporting the Conflict Management Centre of the African Union in capacity-building for analysis, policy and institutional

development, including the operationalization process of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. In May 2003 UNDP signed with the Union a $6.4 million project to support the implementation of the Peace and Security Agenda of the Union. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, among other United Nations system organizations, has also been actively supporting the regional and subregional initiatives, including the preparation of a draft humanitarian protocol for inclusion in the IGAD-initiated peace talks for the Sudan.

18. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) helped to establish a Women's Resource Centre for women delegates attending the IGAD-sponsored Somali peace process. The Centre in Somalia is used for consultations on women-specific proposals within the larger programme of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration committee. In collaboration with MONUC and the Office of the Facilitator of the Intercongolese Dialogue and in the framework of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), UNIFEM has supported the participation of Congolese peace talks by training women experts and providing them with substantive documents and has facilitated their travel to participate in the Dialogue. Women participants in the peace process strongly advocated for the inclusion of women's rights and gender perspectives in the transitional Constitution of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

19. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has been working with African regional economic communities towards mainstreaming human rights and humanitarian law in their peace-building and peacekeeping initiatives. For example, the Yaounde Centre for Democracy and Human Rights, in collaboration with ECCAS and the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa are involved in projects aimed at fostering conflict prevention and resolution of disputes. However, the capacity of the regional organizations to take over the Centre's initiative is week. **Continued dialogue with the regional economic communities needs to be encouraged**.

Protecting civilians in situations of conflict

20. The United Nations peacekeeping operations also involve a wide range of civilian elements, including the protection of civilians in situations of conflict. UNAMSIL has a human rights section with a monitoring and reporting team. Similarly, the United Nations country team in Liberia, through the deployment of human rights officers, reports and monitors all forms of abuses in camps hosting internally displaced persons. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights at a joint seminar in April 2003 adopted a memorandum of understanding, aimed at further strengthening the monitoring of the implementation of the 1969 refugee convention of the then Organization of African Unity.

21. In line with the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report on the necessity to pay special attention to the needs of children in armed conflict, the Security Council in March 2003 adopted the aide-memoire on the protection of civilians, including children, from the effects of armed conflict. The aide-memoire supports the establishment of zones of peace to secure access for immunization to war-affected children. It further supports temporary ceasefires and "days of tranquillity" and specific provisions for the protection of children, including, where appropriate, the integration of child protection advisers in peace operations. In

several countries at war, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has successfully negotiated "days of tranquility", during which warring parties have suspended hostilities to allow UNICEF and its partners safe access to immunize children. National Immunization Days and other innovative approaches have proved to be a catalyst in bringing together humanitarian, political and military actors to provide services for children.

Addressing refugees security issues

22. The Secretary-General, in his 1998 report on the causes of conflict in Africa, underscored the need to ensure that all refugees and internally displaced persons are adequately protected. For example, the Implementation Group for the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, is working on an annotated road map for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons. The road map, which will be finalized by the end of 2003, supports the development of clear criteria and procedures for the identification and separation of armed elements in situations of massive population displacement. During 2002, the Government of Zambia and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees continued to relocate Angolan refugees with military background to areas away from civilian refugees. During 2002, the International Organization for Migration also relocated refugees in Kenya and Mozambique to new camps with better security and facilities and internally displaced persons in Sierra Leone to secure areas in that country.

23. In its efforts to enhance physical protection and security for refugees, the Office formulated in 2002 the Agenda for Protection, which would serve as an overall framework for revitalizing the existing international protection regime to address refugee security issues. The Agenda calls for enhanced partnerships through increased resources. The "Convention Plus" is one such new tool intended to develop, together with the international community, special agreements to promote fair burdens and responsibility-sharing and achieve durable solutions, and to reduce secondary movements of refugees. The Office, in partnership with the Government of Canada, provided training to police officers in Guinea, aimed at enhancing the security of refugees in several camps throughout the country.

24. The presence of large numbers of long-term refugees can have a severe social and environmental impact on host countries. Various United Nations system organizations are assisting such countries in mitigating these adverse effects. The World Food Programme (WFP), through its Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation, not only provides food to refugees, but also assists in the rehabilitation of degraded surroundings of the camp environment through food-for-work programmes for reforestation and land resource conservation. Food aid support to supplementary and therapeutic health units used by both refugees and refugee-hosting communities and the provision of food processing tools for the use of both the refugees and host communities are some of the ways WFP is assisting in mitigating the social and environmental impacts of large numbers of refugees on refugee-hosting countries. In the spirit of burden sharing, bilateral and multilateral donors are encouraged to provide increased assistance towards mitigating the adverse social, economic and environmental effects on the African countries hosting such large numbers of refugees.

3. Post-conflict peace-building

Relating emergency assistance to reconstruction and development

25. The challenges of post-conflict development are complex and multifaceted, including, among other things, recovery, rehabilitation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants into civilian life, sustainable livelihood and demining. The Secretary-General's report recommended that relief efforts must be a step towards development for the consolidation of peace in the aftermath of conflict. The United Nations Development Group/Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs Joint Working Group on Transition Issues follows up the issue of the continuum from relief to development and routinely addresses it as part of the Secretary-General's report to the Economic and Social Council at its humanitarian segment and the General Assembly. It seeks to promote a coordinated and coherent approach among various actors working in the countries in transition from conflict to peace. It also formulates guidance for United Nations country teams working in transition contexts to improve response, including reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons, and to enhance resource mobilization for post-conflict development.

26. As part of its strategy for facilitating the transition to sustainable peace in African countries emerging from conflict, the World Bank in 2003 implemented a $454 million Multi-sector Rehabilitation Programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, aiming to improve agricultural production and enhance food security, restore critical infrastructure and essential social services and strengthen the capacity of Government to formulate and implement its development programmes. The World Bank, together with UNDP, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNICEF and other multilateral and bilateral partners, launched a $500 million Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme for the greater Great Lakes region with two national programmes in Rwanda and Angola, as well as special projects in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

27. The World Bank's portfolio in conflict-affected countries in Africa stood at approximately $5.5 billion by June 2003. The Bank's Post-Conflict Fund has also provided grants to 14 African countries in the areas of pilot reconstruction activities, reintegration of ex-combatants and displaced populations and community reconciliation processes. These activities have been carried out in partnerships with the United Nations and civil society groups.

28. The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict of the Economic and Social Council, created in response to Council resolution 2002/1, is yet another United Nations initiative that integrates relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction and development into a comprehensive approach for peace and stability. In its effort to mobilize support for Guinea-Bissau, the first country considered under the initiative, the Advisory Group undertook in October 2002 a mission to Guinea-Bissau to consult with all stakeholders regarding the challenges facing the country and the ways in which the bilateral donors and others could assist. Its report (E/2003/8), submitted to the Council at its organizational session in January 2003, underscored the need for greater coordination by the international community for broad-based recovery and reconstruction so as to prevent the re-emergence of conflict in Guinea-Bissau. The work of the Group on Guinea-Bissau is ongoing.

Providing peace-friendly structural adjustment programmes

29. The Secretary-General's report underscores the importance of relaxing strict conditionality imposed by international lending institutions on the countries experiencing a delicate political transition. In this regard, the Secretary-General continues to engage in constructive dialogue with the Bretton Woods institutions. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is using the staff-monitored programme as a framework for the resumption of its support to Guinea-Bissau to allow the Government to continue with its structural adjustment and economic reforms at a slower pace than under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF), which was suspended, as the country did not meet the required conditions. Since the suspension of the IMF programme of support under PRGF, UNDP has developed an Emergency Economic Management Fund for Guinea-Bissau as a mechanism for bilateral partners to channel resources to support the critical State-provided services.

B. Building durable peace and encouraging sustainable development

1. Promoting good governance

Securing respect for human rights and the rule of law

30. Most African countries have ratified all the international instruments for the protection of human rights, which is an encouraging development. Progress in the implementation of such instruments and adherence to the rule of law, however, is slow and violations of human rights are not uncommon in many African countries.

31. Various United Nations system organizations are assisting African countries in capacity-building on human rights issues at the national and regional levels. For example, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has continued to advocate for the ratification of treaties by African countries, including by developing closer relations with the African Union and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and being fully engaged in African initiatives such as the Conference on Security, Stability, Development and Cooperation in Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Through its regional office in Addis Ababa, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is providing support to the African Union to facilitate the mainstreaming of human rights in all its activities and programmes in the area of peace and security. In May 2003 the Office supported the organization of the second African Ministerial Conference on Human Rights in Rwanda. A programme of technical assistance to the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is also being planned.

32. UNDP, the World Bank and the French Government are supporting a national review of the justice sector in Chad with a view to reforming and strengthening its judicial institutions. The outcome of the review will form the basis for a national action plan to reform judicial institutions and promote human rights and the rule of law.

33. UNDP, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, is also supporting a project for strengthening regional capacity for the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and good governance in southern Africa. Through its global projects,

the Office is supporting the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions and truth and reconciliation processes. For example, it is providing technical assistance, including expertise in fund-raising and management, to the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which has the mandate to respond, among other things, to the needs of victims and prevent a repetition of human rights violations suffered during the Sierra Leone conflict. UNIFEM is also assisting in building the capacity of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission for witness protection in cases of gender-specific human rights violations during the decade-long civil war in Sierra Leone.

Enhancing administrative capacity

34. Various United Nations system organizations, including the Bretton Woods institutions, are assisting African countries in strengthening their administrative capacity for formulating and adopting a comprehensive national strategy for good governance in the area of public sector reform, including the financial sector, as well as measures aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability. IMF has also set up African Regional Technical Assistance Centres to help build technical capacity for economic and financial management. These are currently operational in Dar es Salaam, serving six countries in East Africa, and in Mali, to serve 10 francophone countries in West Africa.

35. In response to "good governance" as one of the critical preconditions for the implementation of the goals and objectives of NEPAD, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has been established, voluntarily acceded to by African countries for self-monitoring and peer learning. As of May 2003, 15 African countries had acceded to APRM, which has the objective of promoting the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability and sustainable growth and development in the region. This is an encouraging development, in that African countries themselves have imposed good political and economic governance as a critical precondition for achieving political stability and sustained economic growth in Africa.

2. Sustainable development

Creating a positive environment for investment and economic growth

36. African countries have, over the years, undertaken economic and political reforms, including policies and measures aimed at facilitating private sector development and investment promotion. The private sector in most African countries at present comprises small and microenterprises. However, they provide an important opportunity for employment and income creation in urban and rural areas. Investment in such enterprises needs to be emphasized to improve their productivity and growth. In this regard, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), through its enterprise development programme, continues to support small and microenterprises in a number of African countries. The programme provides training to entrepreneurs aimed at creating new employment opportunities through increased investment, efficient production technology, improved management and marketing techniques and exploration of new market outlets for small and microenterprise products.

37. In order to speed up restructuring and reform processes in Africa, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) introduced a subregional approach to the work of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry on the formulation of a subregional programme to introduce a value-chain approach to industrialization in Africa and, in this context, the first subregional meeting took place in October 2002 with the objective of translating the NEPAD objectives into achieving sustainable economic and industrial growth. Furthermore, UNIDO-supported integrated programmes for enterprise development were implemented in 14 African countries in 2002, for a total of about $90 million, including support for investment and technology promotion as well as small and microenterprise development. In March 2003 UNIDO initiated a post-conflict small and microenterprise support programme for industrial development and poverty alleviation in Sierra Leone.

Emphasizing social development

38. The Secretary-General's report underscores the need for focusing budgetary allocation decisions on basic human needs and poverty reduction. In their efforts to address poverty reduction, many African countries are using the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) as instruments for designing poverty reduction interventions. As of July 2003, 19 African countries had completed full PRSPs and a further 10 interim PRSPs, which are a step in the preparation of their full PRSPs. The World Bank, UNDP and other United Nations system organizations are assisting the African countries in formulating such PRSPs in line with their national priorities. The World Bank's project portfolios in post-conflict African countries include social protection and social development projects, for which its support in 2002 amounted to $400 million.

39. The World Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, re-emphasized an integrated approach for sustainable development, including social development, economic development and environmental protection. The Summit deliberations paid much attention to Africa's problems in the context of sustainable development. The Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, adopted at the Summit, underscores the need to take an integrated approach to sustainable development through the formulation of national sustainable development strategies, which could be built on the PRSPs. Only three African countries have to date implemented integrated national sustainable development strategies, while work is in progress in another six countries. The World Bank, UNDP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and other United Nations system organizations are assisting African countries in identifying their priorities for implementing sustainable development either through PRSPs or national sustainable development strategies, as appropriate. The United Nations Environment Programme has also assisted African countries with a systematic process to identify poverty-environment linkages and to address them in their PRSPs.

40. The International Atomic Energy Agency's technical assistance programme in African countries, amounting to about $34.8 million for the biennium 2003-2004 (accounting for 25.3 per cent of the Agency's total technical cooperation fund), is targeted at poverty reduction by supporting projects that focus on health care, food and agriculture, combating diseases in livestock and crops and management of natural resources in the context of sustainable development. The International Labour Organization, through its Jobs in Africa programme, covering 17 African

countries, has helped formulate national employment and poverty reduction policies, mainstream employment concerns in national policies, support pilot projects and build capacity of the social partners.

41. Water and sanitation are critical in poverty eradication and, in this regard, the Africa-European Union partnership on water and sanitation was signed at the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002. The implementation of projects under the proposed European Water Fund for Africa could make a positive contribution to the efforts of African countries in poverty reduction. The Economic Partnership Agreements concluded between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries, on which negotiations started in September 2002, is yet another promising initiative aiming to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction in the ACP group of countries.

42. The challenges of poverty reduction in Africa, especially in conflict and post-conflict countries, are enormous. While economic and political reforms, including good governance, sound social and economic policies, domestic resource mobilization and allocation are important for poverty reduction, they are not sufficient for advancing sustained economic growth, which is an important prerequisite for poverty reduction.

43. **Increased and sustained aid to African countries well above the existing levels, accompanied by appropriate policies conducive to growth, including the necessity for enhancing institutional capacities, would be needed to enable African countries to accelerate their current efforts at poverty reduction to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of halving poverty by 2015.**

Investing in human resources

44. Human resources constitute an important factor in development. The already limited human resource capacity in African countries is being further eroded through the HIV/AIDS pandemic ravaging many African countries, political instability, persistent conflicts and the brain drain. Concerned about the declining human resource capacity in the region and the need for concerted action, the African Union, at its Summit in Durban, South Africa, in 2002, declared 2002-2011 the "Decade for capacity-building in Africa".

45. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is assisting African countries in the preparation and implementation of the Education for All national action plans, broadening Education for All to include secondary, technical and vocational and higher education and introduction of information and communication technology to expand access to education. Furthermore, UNESCO, in partnership with the United Nations Children's Fund and WFP, is also reviewing the modalities for developing programmes, including those in post-conflict countries, to support the objectives of NEPAD. In this regard, a joint NEPAD-UNESCO seminar, entitled "UNESCO and NEPAD: From vision to action", was held in March 2003 in Ouagadougou, and the Ouagadougou Declaration and Action Plan were adopted by representatives of subregional organizations. The Action Plan is intended to create a forum of African regional and subregional organizations to support cooperation between NEPAD and UNESCO in order to achieve NEPAD objectives.

46. The World Bank's sector-wide programmes in the education and health sectors, served by different lending programmes, are also contributing to human resources development in Africa. In 2003 the World Bank approved investment loans for the education sector reform project ($42.3 million) to help Chad develop the appropriate policy framework and strategies for quality basic education; the rehabilitation of basic education in Sierra Leone ($20 million) for the immediate rehabilitation of schools in the post-conflict situation; and a higher education project ($42.5 million) for Mozambique, with the objective of enhancing internal efficiency and expanding the output of graduates, improving equitable access and improving the quality of education and relevance of the curriculum.

47. The increasing prominence of PRSPs and the introduction of the Fast-Track Initiative are means of accelerating support for education, though primary education seems to have a prominent place in the PRSPs. Debt relief under the HIPC initiative may also provide additional support for basic education. It is estimated that $5.6 billion in aid would be needed annually for providing universal primary education in Africa. However, the challenge for human resources development goes beyond primary education to include also secondary, post-secondary and technical and vocational education.

48. **African countries need to make substantial investment in their education, health and related social services to address these challenges, including achieving the Millennium Development Goals relating to universal primary education and eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015. In this regard, the international community is encouraged to step up its support to boost African efforts.**

Public health priorities

49. Combating the scourge of HIV/AIDS is the major public health priority in Africa. Since the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in June 2001, African countries have put in place strategies to fight the pandemic. By mid-2002, 40 countries in Africa had developed national strategies to fight HIV/AIDS (almost three times as many as in 2000) and 19 countries now have National AIDS Councils (a six-fold increase since 2000). The Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other related infectious diseases, adopted at the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Maputo in July 2003, reaffirmed and reiterated the commitment and resolve of African leaders to intensify and consolidate their efforts in the implementation of the Abuja Declaration (2000) and the Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria; and the Abuja Declaration (2001) and the Framework Plan of Action on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases.

50. Various United Nations system organizations are assisting African countries in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes. For example, in Sierra Leone, UNIFEM works with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Population Fund and UNAMSIL as a resource on gender and human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. A new media centre has been established in Sierra Leone for the HIV/AIDS awareness programme and a gender and HIV/AIDS training course has been developed for the national Media Commission.

51. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, established in January 2002, is now operational, though grossly underfunded. Pledges to the Fund as at June 2003 stood at $4.7 billion, compared to the estimated global requirements of about $10.5 billion annually for effective prevention, treatment, care and support programmes. The need for increased contributions by developed countries to the Global Fund has been echoed at various forums, including at the AIDS conference, held in Paris in July 2003.

52. Other funding programmes include the Multi-country HIV/AIDS Programme for Africa (MAP), initiated in 2001, which provides support for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment programmes. In 2003, the World Bank approved $55 million for an HIV/AIDS Response Project for Mozambique and $35 million for the Multi-sectoral HIV/AIDS project in Rwanda, with the objective of strengthening preventive measures to slow the spread of AIDS and expanding support and care for those infected or affected by the pandemic. Approximately $400 million per year in concessional lending, with a corresponding grant value of $275-300 million per year, is projected through 2005 under MAP.

53. Another welcome development in combating HIV/AIDS is the recent commitment of the United States Government of $15 billion to fight HIV/AIDS in 12 sub-Saharan African and two Caribbean countries. The initiative, when approved for funding by the United States Congress and delivery mechanisms are set up, could have a significant impact on combating HIV/AIDS in Africa.

54. Notwithstanding the efforts of major pharmaceutical companies to cut prices sharply on their brand-name antiviral medicines for AIDS victims in poor African countries, the prices are still higher than similar generic drugs produced in India, Brazil and Thailand. **The United Nations welcomes the recent World Trade Organization agreement to allow countries with insufficient pharmaceutical manufacturing capacity to import cheap generic drugs from other countries with such a capacity. In view of the death and devastation being caused by AIDS and other diseases, the international community must ensure that the agreed system is flexibly implemented, so that developing countries, including African countries, can gain access to affordable medicines for all.**

Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women

55. The United Nations continues to encourage African countries to ratify or accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. As of May 2003, 49 African countries have ratified the Convention. Since the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention by the General Assembly in 1999, only three African countries have ratified it. Through its technical cooperation activities, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is assisting Member States to enhance their capacity to report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to implement the Convention. Since 1998, nine African countries have participated in such technical cooperation activities.

56. In March 2003, the African Union convened meetings of experts and ministers to consider and finalize the draft Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The Protocol was adopted at the African Union Summit, held in Mozambique in July 2003. The endorsement by the Union of the election of five African women to its eight-member Commission is indeed a major step forward for Africa in the direction of

women's parity and equality in the political decision-making process. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees supported the process for the elaboration of the recently adopted African Union protocol on the rights of African women. All the programmes supported by the Office at the national and regional levels have a gender dimension and the Office, in collaboration with UNIFEM and other agencies, assists African countries in formulating and adopting policies and programmes for the elimination of discrimination against women in their respective countries.

Restructuring international aid

57. Official development assistance (ODA) to Africa over the last two years has shown some improvement, after a decline in the latter part of the 1990s, from $16.4 billion in 2000 to $17.7 billion in 2001 and to about $18.6 billion in 2002. The urgency for increased development assistance for poor countries, particularly those in Africa, echoed at the recent international conferences, including, among others, the Millennium Summit (2000), the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (2001) and the International Conference on Financing for Development (2002), has, in no small way, rekindled the renewed commitment of donors to assist poor countries in tackling some of the critical development challenges facing them.

58. The G-8 countries have also expressed their commitment to increase resources to Africa by supporting the implementation of NEPAD. At their Summit in Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002, the G-8 countries committed themselves to the African Plan of Action and to devote $6 billion per year of the estimated increase in global ODA of $12 billion by 2006 to African countries that adhere to the rule of law, invest in human resources and pursue policies that stimulate economic growth and contribute to poverty reduction. These commitments were reaffirmed at the G-8 Summit, held in Evian, France, in June 2003.

59. The Millennium Challenge Account, announced by President Bush at the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, is a pledge to channel $10 billion over the next three years to poor countries, including those in Africa. It is a programme in which the United States would increase its development aid by 50 per cent over the next three years, resulting in an annual increase of $5 billion by 2006. The grants under the Millennium Challenge Account would reward countries that adhere to the rule of law, respect human rights, invest in education and better health care and pursue policies for more open markets and sustainable budget policies.

60. These initiatives notwithstanding, the progress in meeting the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee countries' gross national product to ODA remains slow. Only five countries have so far met or exceeded this target. However, there have been encouraging developments in the area of aid effectiveness. Some donor countries have taken steps to untie aid, thereby providing the flexibility to recipient countries to use assistance in a flexible manner to maximize its effectiveness. Such untied aid covers the balance of payments, debt forgiveness, sector assistance, commodity support and assistance to non-governmental organizations. However, foreign technical assistance, which currently

takes up approximately 25 per cent of ODA, remains tied, which is a major source of concern for recipient countries.

61. While African countries have benefited from recent efforts in ODA increases, in view of the enormity of the challenges facing African countries, particularly those in conflict and post-conflict situations, the current levels of ODA remain inadequate for tackling the massive development challenges confronting the region. **Donor countries are urged to increase their efforts to meet the United Nations target of ODA to developing countries and to support African efforts in the consolidation of peace and sustainable development.**

Reducing the debt burden

62. Some progress has been made in debt relief under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. As of April 2003, seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa had reached the completion point[1] (when debt is effectively cancelled) and another 15 countries attained the decision point (at which debt servicing is effectively suspended). The debt reduction commitments for the 22 countries are estimated to be $32.25 billion, accounting for about 15 per cent of the total debt stock of sub-Saharan Africa in 2002. Ten African countries, mainly in conflict and post-conflict situations, are in the "HIPC pipeline" and are yet to be considered for debt relief.

63. Progress in the implementation of the HIPC initiative has been painfully slow and cumbersome and even countries reaching their completion points are unlikely to find themselves at sustainable debt levels at the end of the process. This is borne out by the review carried out by the World Bank's Operations and Evaluation Department in early 2003, which indicates that the six African countries that had reached their completion points by the end of September 2002 were likely to experience difficulties in maintaining their target ratios for debt in relation to both exports and government revenue, as well as for debt service to exports. The IMF review indicates that export projections made when countries had reached the decision point had turned out to be overoptimistic in two thirds of the HIPCs.

64. **In light of the slow speed of implementation of the HIPC initiative, a simplification of the procedures and a further review of the content of conditionality need to be considered. Donor countries are also encouraged to provide increased resources to HIPCs and other debt-ridden countries emerging from conflict and to devise specific measures for those countries, which would not otherwise be eligible for debt relief owing to their arrears to international financial institutions.**

Opening international markets

65. There have been some positive developments over the last two to three years in terms of granting duty and quota-free access to developed country markets for products from the least developed countries, including African countries. As of June 2003, 38 African countries were eligible for tariff preferences under the United States African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). In 2002, the United States of America imported $9 billion of duty-free merchandise under AGOA provisions, recording a 10 per cent increase from 2001.

66. Improved compliance with international standards is critical to take advantage of some of the recent market openings. Various United Nations system organizations

are assisting African countries in this regard. UNIDO, through its regional programme on technology management for sub-Saharan Africa, is facilitating trade participation of selected ECOWAS countries through enhancement of standards, the testing of methodology and promotion of quality and related services. The Joint International Trade Centre/UNCTAD/World Trade Organization Integrated Technical Assistance Programme for Selected Least Developed and Other African Countries, covering 16 countries, is designed to support these countries in their trade performance and in their efforts towards better integration in the international trading system, diversification and enhancement of negotiating capacities. Other programmes include the UNDP/UNCTAD technical assistance programme for Africa, aimed at helping these countries in their response to the Doha Agenda and their preparation for the ministerial meeting in Cancun in September 2003.

67. Notwithstanding the trade preferences under AGOA and the European Union's Everything but Arms Initiative, African countries continue to be constrained from fuller participation in the global economy by a combination of inadequate capacity to meet world trade standards for goods, dependence on commodity exports and tariff peaks and escalation, which are typically concentrated in areas of export interest to lower income countries. The persistence of agricultural subsidies in developed countries remains a major challenge, though the recent proposals for reform of the European Union's common agricultural policy are a welcome development which could encourage Japan and the United States also to show some flexibility on the agricultural subsidies issue.

68. **There is an urgent need for African countries to be successfully integrated into the global trade arrangements, as trade can be an engine for economic growth and crucial for addressing the challenge of poverty reduction. The industrialized countries need to take more vigorous measures to lower their trade barriers against exports from developing countries, including African countries, and open their markets to developing countries. However, progress in reducing trade barriers and opening the markets of developed countries needs to be accompanied by improved domestic policies and enhanced capacity that help countries to take advantage of trade opportunities. African countries will also need to strengthen their trade negotiating capacity, improve infrastructure, diversify their export-base and make export-oriented industries more productive in order to tap into global markets.**

Support for regional cooperation and integration

69. Subregional and regional cooperation and economic integration can be used to promote economic discipline and sound macroeconomic policy, and facilitate the establishment of solid institutional links between neighbouring States. In this context, IMF is providing advice to ECOWAS to carry out its accelerated monetary integration, which will result in two monetary zones, and eventually to lead to a single currency for the ECOWAS subregion. In this regard, a West African Monetary Institution to oversee this harmonization has been established in Ghana.

Harmonizing current international and bilateral initiatives

70. The need to harmonize current initiatives on Africa has been underscored at various forums with a view to enhancing their impact on African development. In its resolution 57/7, the General Assembly adopted NEPAD as the framework within

which the international community, including the United Nations, should concentrate its efforts for African development. The existing coordination and programming mechanisms at the United Nations level include: the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for enhancing support at the country level; the regional consultative meetings of the United Nations system organizations working in Africa at the regional level, chaired by the Economic Commission for Africa; and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board at the global level. The United Nations harmonization work is being coordinated by the United Nations Development Group.

71. An important development with regard to harmonizing bilateral and multilateral (multilateral development banks) initiatives was the Rome Declaration on Harmonization, adopted at a meeting of major multilateral and bilateral institutions held in Rome in February 2003. The Declaration provides for the harmonization of operational policies, procedures and practices of multilateral and bilateral organizations with those of partner country systems to improve the effectiveness of development assistance, thereby contributing to meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

72. **In view of the fact that NEPAD has been adopted by the international community as a framework for African development, bilateral and multilateral efforts should support the African initiative. The United Nations welcomes international initiatives, such as the G-8 Action Plan for Africa and the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, in support of NEPAD.**

III. Conclusion and recommendations on the future follow-up modality

73. **The foregoing review shows that further progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations since the consideration of the previous progress report in 2002. The progress, however, has been slow and uneven. The efforts of African countries and the international community need to be accelerated in order to implement the various recommendations in a timely manner.**

74. **A number of problems and challenges have constrained the effective and timely implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report. They include the lack of political will, persistent conflicts, weak governance to consolidate the reform agenda, weak human and institutional capacity for economic management and administration in general and in dealing with the much-needed reform programmes in particular and the limited financial resources, including from external sources, to tackle the enormous development challenges, particularly reconstruction and rehabilitation in post-conflict countries.**

75. **In view of the multiplicity of existing reporting frameworks in which the United Nations system addresses the issues already raised in the Secretary-General's report and the numerous forums in which they are discussed, appraised and reviewed, it is proposed that the present format for reporting on the implementation of the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report**

on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa be discontinued. Instead, the follow-up and reporting on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report should be mainstreamed in the existing reports of the Secretary-General and the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations.

Notes

[1] Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Tanzania and Uganda.